

App. Serial No.: 10/092,933
Atty. Docket No.: 0003-029

REMARKS

These remarks are in response to the Office Action dated January 19, 2005, which has a shortened statutory period for response set to expire April 19, 2005. No extension of time is required.

Claims

Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11-20, 22, and 25-42 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 20, 22, and 28 are rejected over prior art. Claims 1, 7, 12, 13, 22, 28, and 30 are amended and Claims 3, 10-11, 20-21, 23-25, and 29 are canceled. Claims 2, 4-6, 8-9, 14-19, 26-27, 31-37, and 38-42 remain as filed or as previously amended. Claims 43-45 are added. Reconsideration is requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 14-19, 26-27, and 34-42 are allowed. Claims 11-13, 25, and 29-33 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are indicated to contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 1 is amended herein to depend from Claim 14. Because Claim 14 is allowed, Applicants believe that Claims 1-2 and 4-6 should also now be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as Claim 14.

Claim 7 is amended herein to include the limitations of Claim 11, and Claim 11 is canceled. The subject matter added to Claim 7 in the amendment filed February 17, 2004 is also removed, because Claim 11 was indicated to contain allowable subject matter in the prior Office Action dated November 17, 2003. Claim 7 should now be in condition for allowance because it includes the limitations of Claim 11, which is indicated to be allowable. Claim 12, which previously depended from Claim 11, is amended herein to depend from Claim 7. Claims 8-9, and 12 now depend directly from Claim 7, and therefore should also be allowable at least as further limitations of Claim 7.

Claim 13 is cast in independent form, including all the limitations of Claim 7 as presented in the Office Action response filed August 4, 2003. Therefore, because Claim 13 is indicated to contain allowable subject matter in both the present Office Action and the Office Action dated November 17, 2003, Claim 13 should now be in condition for allowance.

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Claim 20 is canceled herein, thereby obviating the rejection of Claim 20.

Claim 22 is amended herein to include the limitations of Claim 25, and Claim 25 is canceled. Because Claim 25 is indicated to contain allowable subject matter, Claim 22 should now be in condition for allowance.

Claim 28 is amended herein to include the limitations of Claim 29, and Claim 29 is canceled. Because Claim 29 is indicated to contain allowable subject matter, Claim 28 should now be in condition for allowance. Claim 30 is amended herein to depend from Claim 28, such that Claims 30-33 properly depend either directly or indirectly from Claim 28 rather than Claim 29.

New Claims 43-45 are added. Claims 43-44 contain substantially the similar limitations as Claims 8-9, however depend from Claim 13 rather than Claim 7. New Claim 45 depends from Claim 22, and includes the step of "mounting an isolation valve to said duct to selectively block the flow of air between said duct and said flow controller," which was originally recited in Claim 20. No new matter is added.

It should be noted that the amendments made herein are intended to expedite the allowance of the present application, and therefore, should not be considered an admission with respect to the propriety of the rejections contained in the previous office action. Those rejections are now moot, and no response is necessary.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants believe Claims 1-2, 4-9, 12-19, 22, 26-28, and 30-45 are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner undertake any action other than allowance of Claims 1-2, 4-9, 12-19, 22, 26-28, and 30-45, or if the Examiner has any questions or suggestions for expediting the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' attorney at (269) 279-8820.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 4/19/05

Larry E. Henneman, Jr.

Larry E. Henneman, Jr., Reg. No. 41,063
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Henneman & Saunders
714 W. Michigan Ave.
Three Rivers, MI 49093

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION (37 CFR 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being transmitted via facsimile, on the date shown below, to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, at (703) 872-9306.

Date: 4/19/05


Larry E. Henneman, Jr.